

EGLWYSBACH MEDICAL PRACTICE

NEWSLETTER – SPRING 2016

HAY FEVER

The hay fever season is upon us. If patients have had medication in the past they can request a repeat prescription through reception without the need to see a GP. Alternatively patients can email their request via our repeat prescription ordering form found on our website www.eglwysbachsurgery.com

PHARMACIST

Mr Dan Hay has joined the practice earlier this year. He is employed by the Cwm Taf Health Board and from April will work in the practice for 2 days per week. His role will include repeat prescription monitoring as well as advising patients about their medicines through consultation at surgery or by telephone.

GP APPOINTMENTS

Patients frequently ask doctors to help with several problems during one appointment. GPs have 10 minutes per patient allocated as per guidance from the Welsh Government. If your doctor does not feel able to safely deal with more than one issue in an appointment, you may be asked to book another appointment for any non-urgent matters.

DOCTORS

Dr Susie Lundqvist has left the practice to pursue her career elsewhere after 11 years at Eglwysbach. We wish her well and would like to thank her for her valued contribution to the practice.

Dr Zoe Morris-Williams will shortly be increasing the number of sessions she works in the practice. She will work 3 full days each week and on other days will continue to work as a Lecturer in the Department of Medicine at Cardiff University.

Dr Hooria Ghani is a Foundation Programme Doctor who will spend 4 months with the practice from April 2016.

P.T.O.

WARFARIN MONITORING

We have changed the way we monitor patients who are treated with Warfarin. In the past blood was taken from the arm and sent to the laboratory; the result was obtained the following day and the patient was contacted with dosing instructions.

We now have the equipment to be able to take the same test from a finger-prick sample. The result is available immediately and the dose calculated before the patient leaves surgery. We believe this will provide a safer and more efficient method of managing the sometimes complicated issue of Warfarin monitoring.

A&E

We are all aware of the long waiting times in the local A&E departments. It should be kept in mind that the purpose of the A&E department is to deal with accidents and emergencies. It is not appropriate for patients with other problems to use their services.

As we have excellent access at our practice for problems that arise on the day there should be no excuse for inappropriate attendance by patients of Eglwysbach and Tonteg surgeries. If patients are in doubt as to where they should consult for any particular problem, we suggest that they take a look at advice on www.choosewell.org.uk

TONTEG BRANCH SURGERY

We continue to work on our aim to find new premises for our branch surgery in Tonteg. We have now been trying to re-locate for over 10 years. A number of potential sites have been looked at but none has proved suitable for various reasons.

Until approximately 2013, financial support for a project such as this was the responsibility of the Welsh Government. This has changed and the responsibility now lies with the local Health Board – but with no allocation of extra funding from Welsh Government to provide the required support. The issue currently is we have no guarantee of financial support from Cwm Taf Health Board, and so any prospect of moving has stalled. We have made representation to the Health Board and the Health Minister in the last government has been lobbied by representatives of GPs throughout Wales. No change seems to be on the horizon despite the stated aim of the government to provide more services from general practice. We will continue to press the case with the Health Board and the Health Minister.

P.T.O.